

## RUSSIA IN ASIA.

## "An Englishman" Gives His Opinion on the Subject.

## THE BASIS OF ENGLISH POWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I am very much interested in your letters from Central Asia narrating the progress of Russian power towards Khiva. I happen to know something of the questions involved in these campaigns, and hope you will allow me to communicate some views to the HERALD that may not be altogether unworthy of interest at this time. Every now and then, perhaps once in 20 years or so, an ignorant young Englishman, with an active mind, in British India, looks about for means of distinguishing himself. The time being for him not an easy thing to do for he has many competitors, educated by high pressure, on the competitive system, who have active minds also. But commonly the highly educated Englishmen are more or less throttled by their education, and cannot move freely by reason of the chain and collar which learning has fastened around their necks. But the Englishman who has merely an active mind, and is slenderly held by his teachers, who are, possibly, penny papers, can dance about in all the desolate freedom of the wild ass. The only subject of consideration for him is the manner and direction in which he shall begin his jig. Indian finance is a dreary ground to dance upon. The temples, the laings, the flogges and the permanent persons, upon whom has descended the mantle of the late Mr. Wilson, hatter and politician, will promptly warn him of over trespassing upon preserves which are their private property. Sanitary questions are used up, too, and besides, they belong exclusively to Lord Derby. Indian government might be an attractive subject, but every one who is well informed must be aware that it has been appropriated by Sir John Kaye. What on earth, therefore, is an active minded young man to do for a reputation? Suppose he has a go in at Russia. Few people know much about Russia. Russia has no friends, and may be, therefore, scolded easily. If the active minded young man makes a few blunders in his politics or geography he will not be found out. By all means let him have a go in at Russia.

Then out comes a hot-pressed book, in which the active minded young man has the talk all to himself, and (the Lord be praised!) he makes the hair of all the old English ladies retired from British India domestic service at boarding houses in Bath or Cheltenham to stand upon an end.

"Russia," says the active minded young man, "is a mighty Power, astute, insatiable, patient, resolute. That vast Empire, which stretches, &c., &c. And then, after the inevitable passage about Peter the Great, Potemkin and the Empress Catharine, British India mankind is informed that "Russia" will be in Calcutta within 20 years unless he, the active minded young man, is immediately elevated to a post of authority and emolument. Nine times out of ten the British Indians, who feel a nervous anxiety about their hold upon Indian things which do not belong to them, get frightened and give the active minded young man the emolument of which he is in search. Sir John Kaye and many other distinguished Anglo-Indians rose into celebrity that way, and it has several advantages. As it is at Russia makes all the military men cock their ears. They know that, if a Russian camp sets in, there will be special military missions to Persia, Herat, Cabool and Candahar. Then there will be frontier commissions, secret agencies and all sorts of appointments, which offer honest means of advancement to the British soldier who has friends in council. Likewise the Right Honorable the Governor General (a banker & trade) would not be sorry to see an Indian six per cent loan in the market, and to gather renown and profits together before the expiration of his term of office. The hot-pressed book of the active minded young man is a success because it suits the secret wishes of the whole community of which he is a member; for if "Russia" is really coming to Calcutta it is high time for Calcutta to take precautionary measures not unconnected with ruses and bravado.

The English newspapers which have the largest Indian circulation—the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Standard* and, a long way behind, the *Times*, take up the Russian subject, review the active minded young man's book and publish leading articles upon it. The Indian Office, with the Duke of Argyll, much occupied by the genealogy of the Campbells at its head, and the War Office, presided over by that famous hero, Mr. Cardwell, now feel a strong interest in the business, and presently a Moscow tea dealer is discovered in Cashmere suspected to be a spy of the St. Petersburg Cabinet, and the snug nest of elderly gentlemen who compose the Royal Asiatic Society and the Oriental Club decide which of them shall go out as commander-in-chief of the reinforcements about to be despatched against a mud village in the Punjab, where a row has been stirred up. Meanwhile the Cabinet of St. Petersburg is busy in proclaiming the excellence of Adelphi Park, and has no more thought of British India or of Cypria. The Ministers are generally brilliant, talkative men, who have acquired all the knowledge of the modern man of letters from Voltaire's novels. They drink a good deal of tea, in tumblers, with rum and lemon in it, so that it is rather punch than tea, and they pay visits to each other's wives from morning to night. The Court, indeed, is a very august assembly. The Czar plays cards in his shirt sleeves with a few cheerful friends, and drinks champagne seated astraddle on a chair. The Empress takes tea and talk with the superior clergy. But neither of them trouble themselves much respecting exploded schemes of antiquated statecraft. No Minister or courtier, no Russian man being has anything to gain by a war in the East, and therefore the minds of none of them are concerned with it. Prince Gortschakoff is truly a magnificent personage, who uses long and sonorous words, but nothing comes, or is intended to come, of them. There is, too, an elderly gentleman known as the Countess Antioch, who is fond of playing at female politics. When she is selected society round the Empress's tea table think that it would even them to do something an animated conversation takes place, with a chorus of hishops and archbishops, exalting the orthodox faith, and there is a Khivan expedition, or an interesting despatch affecting the patriarchate of Jerusalem is sent off to disturb the rest of General Ignatieff at Constantinople.

None of these august persons know anything about British India, except in a vague manner, such as that in which they know about two-headed hobgoblins. But a quiet observer, who may be met with occasionally altogether out of the official hum, will smile if the notion of Russian conquest is mentioned in his presence. "Russia," he will or may say, "is too large already. Her Baltic provinces, her Polish provinces are discontented and she will have a hard task to protect herself against war with Germany and revolution in Poland. Her nobility are ruined, her middle class has hardly come into existence and her peasantry are utterly savage. She has a numerous army—upon paper—but it is ill-dressed, ill-disciplined, ill-paid, ill-armed. She has no other, general means of transport, steamers nor money, and her paper currency is often 30 per cent below par. Her climate renders her tolerably safe from attack; but she is powerless to offend. It is quite true that her institutions are such that if a despotic and ambitious sovereign wished to begin a war of aggrandizement he could take the preliminary steps without serious opposition. But a very strong public opinion is exercising itself; and that is dead against any extension of Russian territory. There are certainly light-headed people in Russia, as there are everywhere else, and these will be heard raving about a Russian war, especially after a dinner. Sensible folk have no such nonsense in their heads. The dissolution of Turkey would be ruinous to our southern land owners, and they would oppose an attack upon the Turkish shores of the

Black Sea by every means in their power. Moreover, the Czar is neither covetous nor bloodthirsty. He is a good, easy man, of a stout and melancholy habit, who loves his friends, his wife and his country. Russia may be forced, at no distant date, to go to war, but she will not venture upon a war of aggression. I am, sir, your obedient servant, AN ENGLISHMAN.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1873.

## PALESTINE EXPLORATION.

## The American Exploring Expedition and Its Work—An Appeal for Aid.

A meeting was held last evening in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association building, corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue, to promote the American Palestine Exploration. There was a very large audience present. Judge Brady presided, and after a few remarks on the importance of the subject, introduced Professor Hitchcock. The Professor began first by re-iterating in a general way to the grand explorations that had taken place of late years. He reminded his audience that only a few months ago, said he, the HERALD had launched an expedition into the very heart of Africa. He said that he did not deem it necessary to say that the exploration in Palestine was a thing that could be undertaken. A short time ago the Americans were invited by the English promoters of a Palestine exploration to join them in their grand work; but after consultation it was decided that while the English might continue to explore the west side of the Jordan, the Americans should establish an independent exploration instead of an auxiliary one, to explore the east side. The west side was pretty well known, yet the English engineers had found plenty to do. They were correcting a great many existing geographical inaccuracies and making a map on a grand scale, an inch to the mile. The American expedition would perform their work on the same grand scale. At first the Geographical Society had difficulty to find a competent engineer, but finally they discovered that the late Mr. Stever, who went to the Holy Land about a year ago, and after five months of hard work had succeeded in making a splendid map of the Holy Land, at the rate of an inch to the mile—of 60 square miles. This map was necessarily incomplete at present, but it was a good map of a great part of the Holy Land. The Professor then read a letter from the missionaries in Beyrout, in which they highly commended the work of Lieutenant Stever. The chief object of the expedition under Lieutenant Stever, he said, was accuracy in mapping out the country. The explorations of the past had been made by men who would not be waiting in the future. There was a proposition on foot to put two expeditions in the field, each with five assistant engineers. He believed that the whole work could be accomplished in five years at an expenditure of \$30,000 a year; so \$150,000 would pay for the whole expedition, which would be completed in five years, and would have to be surveyed, but this work could be done by sections, as the map was to be made by sections.

Lieutenant Stever was then introduced, and after stating how he had been appointed to the expedition, he said that he had been in the country in January last, and when he arrived in Syria all the preparations were made for his coming. He had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished. He gave an interesting narrative of his adventures, and he said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished. He gave an interesting narrative of his adventures, and he said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished.

The Rev. Dr. Washburn also spoke, urging the necessity of supporting the expedition. He said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished. He gave an interesting narrative of his adventures, and he said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished.

## FREE DORMITORY FOR WOMEN.

The Free Dormitory for Women, at No. 20 South Fifth avenue, established by the "Fraternalists of the Church of the Strangers," was opened last evening. There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen connected with the Church of the Strangers in the parlor. Among those present were Dr. Deems, the Rev. Mr. Sweetser, Mr. Algeron S. Sullivan and others.

Mr. PAYNE SWETSER gave a history of the Dormitory and of the "Fraternalists," a society of young men of the church established for their social improvement. From the 15th of July, when the Dormitory was opened in South Fifth avenue, until the 1st of December, 67 lodgings had been given to 422 women, 67 had obtained situations by the aid of the "Fraternalists." It had been situated in various homes, & to the hospital. While they began with two small rooms in South Fifth avenue they had now hired this entire building, which would accommodate 50 women. The object of this institution was to provide temporary shelter for recent destitute women, who could otherwise have to remain on the streets or sleep in police stations. They were provided with a bath, a comfortable bed and free medical attendance in case of illness. The institution was a great success, and was given for obtaining employment.

Dr. Deems spoke of the fraternal feeling which was the basis of the institution. He said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished. He gave an interesting narrative of his adventures, and he said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished.

Mr. SULLIVAN also addressed the gathering. He said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished. He gave an interesting narrative of his adventures, and he said that he had been in the country for some time, and he had made a great deal of valuable work accomplished.

## ANNIVERSARY FOR THE DEAF MUTES.

The Rev. Thomas H. Gallaudet, LL. D., founded the first institution for deaf mutes in the United States, at Hartford, Conn., in April, 1817. Since that time thousands of deaf mutes have been educated in various parts of the country at the different institutions. The anniversary of the institution was celebrated in this city and vicinity by a series of religious exercises, which were held at the residence of Mr. Gallaudet, on Wednesday evening, December 10, in Central Park Garden. At eight o'clock there was a service of prayer, and the Rev. Mr. Gallaudet, of the New York Institute, to be followed by a social reunion. The proceeds of the service will be sent to the Massachusetts Deaf Mute Literary Association and the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes.

## CLOSING OF THE ERIE CANAL.

RUFFALO, Dec. 4, 1873. According to general orders from the Canal Board the Canal Collectors' office at this point was closed for public business to-day. The officers will commence their annual statement to-morrow. The cash receipts for the season at this office are \$1,453,634.33, being \$414 less than in the season of 1872, the Canal having opened later last spring and navigation having closed earlier this fall.

## LABOR IN NEW JERSEY.

RESUMPTION OF WORK IN BARBOUR MILLS. PATTERSON, Dec. 5, 1873. The Barbour Flax Company, employing nearly 400 hands, which closed one of its mills at the beginning of the panic and has since been running the other on three-quarter time, will, on Monday next, start both mills on full time and give employment to 100 hands, who have been idle for two months.

## PRESENTATION.

Last evening the members of Rode Chapter, F. and A. M., presented to their retiring presiding officer, Mr. Joseph Smythe, a massive gold watch and chain and a past officer's jewel. The presentation was made by Mr. Thomas G. Thorne, High Priest of the State. Among the guests present was Mr. Ellwood K. Thorne, Deputy Grand Master of the State of New York.

## THE QUESTION OF THE VIRGINIUS.

## Correspondence Between Commander Cushing, of the United States War Steamer Wyoming, and the Spanish General Burriel.

Below are given the text of Commander Cushing's letter to the notorious General Burriel and the reply of the latter to the American officer. Both official notes show a good deal of feeling on either side.

CUSHING'S LETTER TO BURRIEL.

UNITED STATES STEAMER WYOMING, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 16, 1873.

To His Excellency, Brigadier Commandant General JUAN R. BURRIEL, Captain of the Spanish Steamer Virginius.

I have the honor to address you this communication respecting the capture on the high seas of the United States merchant steamer Virginius, and the crew and passengers thereof, by your vessel, the Virginius, on the 12th of October, 1873, with sailing papers, including register, and all the necessary documents brought under the inspection of the United States Consul at Kingston, Jamaica, and the United States Consul at Havana, under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court. The question of the capture of the Virginius, and the crew and passengers thereof, is a matter of great importance, and one that has attracted the attention of the world. The capture of the Virginius, and the crew and passengers thereof, is a matter of great importance, and one that has attracted the attention of the world.

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passengers, to establish freely, and a priori, the criminality of the good Spaniards who have detained them on their voyage.

And, more than this, to the hypocritical malignity of this government and its incomprehensible humiliation of the representative of Spain in Washington is added the last consideration of the question. The question is, whether the Spaniards, who have detained them on their voyage, are to be considered as criminals, or as the victims of a war, which, if it has already been declared previously that the living among the passengers are not justified by Spain. The consideration of this question is, whether the Spaniards, who have detained them on their voyage, are to be considered as criminals, or as the victims of a war, which, if it has already been declared previously that the living among the passengers are not justified by Spain.

And will you submit to the ignominy, knowing the dangers which the bases of the treaty engender? No; a thousand times, no. It is treason, it obliges no one to follow the ignominious compact subscribed by the representative of Spain in Washington.

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